

Chris Sands  
Director of Community Engagement  
City of Chattanooga  
101 East 11th Street  
Chattanooga, TN 37402

3/15/22

Chris,

On behalf of Hope For the Inner City, I am writing to communicate my support for the City of Chattanooga as they pursue a grant through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant funding. The City is pursuing this grant to replace the 70-year old Wilcox Boulevard Bridge over the DeButts Railyard, owned and operated by Norfolk Southern Railway, and over additional tracks operated by CSX Railway. The existing structure can no longer support freight trucks or emergency vehicles, does not offer a safe passageway for pedestrians or bicyclists to cross this large rail facility, and continues to rapidly deteriorate.

A replacement structure is vital to the community and to the transportation network at this location. We provide crisis relief and economic development programs to residents who live in this area, cross the Wilcox Boulevard Bridge daily, and would be negatively impacted disproportionately if anything happens to that bridge before it can be repaired or replaced. Please consider the City's request! Those of us who live and work nearby understand how beneficial this project would be for our community.

Thank you for considering this project by the City for a RAISE grant, and I look forward to one-day seeing a new structure with multimodal facilities at this location become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Mahla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Mahla  
Director of Development and Program Support  
Hope For the Inner City  
1800 Roanoke Ave  
Chattanooga, TN 37406